



September 15, 2022

City of Berkeley
Design Review Committee
Planning and Development
1947 Center Street
Berkeley, CA 94704
Att: Anne Burns, Secretary

Dear Design Review Committee:

Thank you for your attention today to the proposed Bird Safe Regulations. These regulations are an opportunity for the City of Berkeley to remain a leader in the sustainable design of our urban spaces. Bird populations in the United States have generally declined by over 30% since 1970, and collisions with buildings kill over 1 Billion birds each year. The proposed regulations will begin to reverse that trend here in Berkeley and set a standard for the entire region.

One of the concerns often expressed about bird-friendly buildings is that bird-friendly glass is too expensive. The reality is that bird-friendly buildings are no more expensive to build than deadly bird-killers if the principles of bird-safe design are incorporated into the initial building design. In fact, many bird-friendly design elements will significantly reduce operating costs over the lifetime of the building. Legislation for federal buildings is under consideration in congress this year, and although the Congressional Budget Office hasn't released financial implications for this bill, they already acknowledged that the similar 2015 bill was cost-neutral.

It is important that the regulation apply to all construction since most birds killed by buildings are not killed on skyscrapers or office buildings, but on residential structures. While the rate for residential buildings is slightly lower than for commercial buildings, there are far more residential buildings.

Golden Gate Audubon is committed to working with the City of Berkeley to ensure that these regulations are effective and workable.

Sincerely,

Glenn Phillips
Executive Director

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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